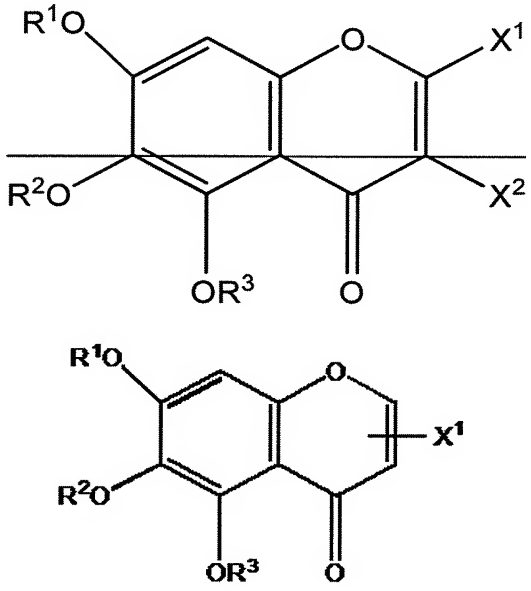
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound according to formula I :



(I)

wherein:

R^1 and R^3 are each independently H, lower alkyl, ~~alkenyl, alkynyl,~~ $-SO_3H$, or $-PO_3H_2$, ; ~~or R^1 and R^2 are each independently Y and $[CH_2CH(OH)CH_2]Y$, wherein Y is H, OR^4, NR^5R^6, $COOR^4$, or $CONR^5R^6$ wherein R_4, R^5, and R^6 are each independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, and R^5 and R^6 together may form a 5 to 7-membered ring;~~

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, $-SO_3H$ or $-PO_3H$

or R^1 and R^2 together ~~become a methylene unit, (CH_2)~~ with the atoms to which they are bound form a methylenedioxy group ;

or R^2 and R^3 together ~~become a methylene unit, (CH_2)~~ with the atoms to which they are bound form a methylenedioxy group; and

X^1 ~~and X^2 are each~~ is bound in the 2- or 3- position and is ~~independently~~ of the formula :

$$Ar\text{-}X^3\text{-}T$$

wherein ~~Ar may or may not be present, but at least either X^1 or X^2 must be present; and when both X^1 and X^2 are present, Ar is phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, pyridyl, cyclohexyl or benzyl; wherein~~

~~X^3 is H, C, N, NR', NR'R", $NR'SO_2$ R", or O, wherein R' and R" are each independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl; wherein T is Y or $[CH_2CH(OH)CH_2]Y$, Y is H, OR^4, NR^5R^6, $COOR^4$, or $CONR^5R^6$ wherein R^4, R^5, and R^6 are each independently H, alkyl, or alkenyl, or alkynyl, and R^5 and R^6 together may form a 5 to 7 membered ring; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;~~

~~when either of X^1 or X^2 is present, Ar is a substituted phenyl:~~

~~wherein X^3 is C, N, NR', NR'R", $NR'SO_2$ R",OR^1,;~~

~~or when either of X^1 or X^2 is present,~~

Ar is furanyl, thienyl, pyridyl, cyclohexyl or benzyland X^3 is is a substituent on the ortho, meta, or para position of the phenyl ring and is H, C, N, NR', NR'R", $NR'SO_2$ R", or O; wherein R' and R" are each independently H, or lower alkyl~~, alkenyl, or alkynyl,~~ ; and OR^1 is $O(CH_2)_nY$, wherein n is 1 to 2, Y is OR^4, NR^5R^6, $COOR^4$, or $CONR^5R^6$; or $O[CH_2CH(OH)CH_2]Y$, wherein Y is H, OR^4, NR^5R^6, $COOR^4$, or $CONR^5R^6$; wherein T is Y or $[CH_2CH(OH)CH_2]Y$, Y is H, OR^4, NR^5R^6, $COOR^4$, or $CONR^5R^6$ wherein R^4, R^5, and R^6 are each independently H, or lower alkyl, ~~alkenyl, or lkynyl,~~ and R^5 and R^6 together may form a 5 to 7-membered ring; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, subject to the proviso that the compound according to formula I is not baicalein or 5, 6, 7-trihydroxyisoflavone or a compound wherein X3 is hydroxyl-substituted phenyl.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently-SO_3H or-PO_3H_2.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is water soluble.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound wherein the compound is 4'- (N,N-dimethylamino)-5, 6,7-trimethoxyflavone, 4'- (methylamino)-5, 6,7- trimethoxyflavone, 4'-[N-methyl-N-(3-methoxypropyl)amino)-5,6,7-trimethoxyflavone, 4'-[N,N-di-(2-hydroxyethyl)-amino)-5,7-dihydroxy-6-methoxyflavone, 4'-(2-hydroxyethylamino)-5,7-dihydroxy-6-methoxyflavone, 4'-(2-methanesulfonatoethylamino)-5,7-dihydroxy-6-methoxyflavone, 4'-[2-(N,N-diethylamino)ethylamino]-5,7-dihydroxy-6-methoxyflavone, 2,3-diphenyl-5,6,7-trimethoxychromone, 2,3-diphenyl-5,6,7-trihydroxychromone, 4'-(methylsulfonamido)-5,6,7-trimethoxyflavone, 4'-[2-(N,N-diethylamino)ethoxy]-6,7-methylenedioxy-5-hydroxy-flavone, 4'-(2,3-dihydroxy-propyloxy)-5,6,7-trimethoxyflavone, or 4'-(Carbmethoxymethoxy)-5,6,7-trimethoxyflavone.

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

13. (Original) The pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an aqueous carrier.

14. (Currently amended) A method of treating diseases associated with overproduction of TNF-α selected from the group consisting of ~~arthritis,~~ rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ~~ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis,~~ organ failure, and pulmonary fibrosis,, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~organ damage, selected from~~ liver damage, lung damage or kidney damage or combinations thereof comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

19. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

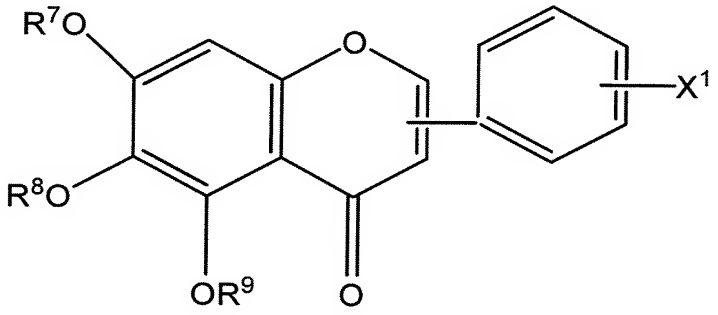
28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of treating conditions selected from the group

consisting of diseases associated with the overproduction of TNF-α, overproduction of superoxide anion radical, liver damage, lung damage, kidney ~~organ damage~~, and combinations thereof, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula V:



(V)

wherein:R^7,R^8, and R^9 are each independently H, lower alkyl,-SO_3H,-PO_3H_2 ~~or benzyl~~; or R^7 and R^8 together ~~become a methylene unit, (CH_2)~~ with the atoms to which they are bound form a methylenedioxy group or

R^8 and R^9 together ~~become a methylene unit, (CH_2)~~ with the atoms to which they are bound form a methylenedioxy group ;

X^1 is a substituent on the ortho, meta, or para position of the phenyl ring and is H, C, NH_2, $NHCOCH_3$, or OR^{10}, wherein R^{10} is H, lower alkyl ~~or benzyl~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

32. (Canclled~~)~~

33 (Original) The compound according to claim 1, whereinR^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently-SO_3H or-PO_3H_2.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Cancelled

38. (Cancelled

39. (currently amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the compound is 5,6,7- trihydroxyisoflavone, 4',5,6,7- tetrahydroxyflavone, or 4'-amino -5,7-

dihydroxy-6-methoxy flavone.

40. (canceled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with at least one other therapeutic agent useful for the prevention or treatment of conditions associated with overproduction of TNF-α, ~~overproduction of superoxide anion radical,~~ and ~~organ~~ liver damage, lung damage or kidney damage .

45. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered orally or parenterally.

46. (Currently amended) A method of treating conditions selected from the group consisting of diseases associated with the overproduction of TNF-α ~~overproduction of superoxide anion radical,~~ and ~~organ~~ liver damage, lung damage or kidney damage and combinations thereof, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of baicalein-6-sulfate, baicalein-6,7-disulfate, bacalein-6-phosphate, bacalein-6,7-diphosphate, baicalein- 5,6, 7-triphosphate, sodium and potassium salt derivatives thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49 (Cancelled)

50 (Cancelled)

51. (Canceled)

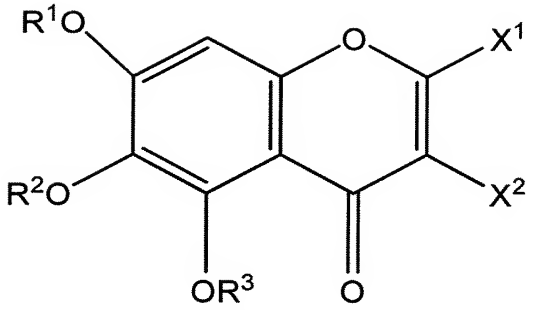
52. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 46, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with at least one other therapeutic agent useful for the prevention or treatment of conditions associated with overproduction of TNF-α, ~~overproduction of superoxide anion radical~~.

53. (Original) The method according to claim 44, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered orally or parentally.

54. (Currently amended) A method of treating conditions selected from the group consisting of diseases associated with the overproduction of TNF-α, ~~overproduction of superoxide anion radical,~~ and ~~organ~~ liver damage, lung damage or kidney damage. and combinations thereof, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of compound as in Claim 11.

55. (Canceled)
56. (Canceled)
57. (Canceled)
58. (Canceled)
59. (Canceled)

60 (Currently amended) A method of treating liver damage, lung damage or kidney ~~organ~~ damage which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen and alkyl;

R_2 is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl and sulfate or R_1 and R_2 together with the atoms to which they are joined jointly form a methylene dioxy group;

R_3 is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl and sulfate;

X_1 is selected from hydrogen, phenyl and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino, mono or dialkyl substituted amino, hydroxyl alkoxy, or aminoalkoxy

and X_2 is selected from hydrogen and phenyl, and X1 and X2 can not both phenyl.